2: Skrefsrud M-5 (1870-1871) 1942 AW42 Santal AW42

e. Women's work.

462 The women are constantly working. Getting up at cock-crow they pound paddy. When
512 day dawns, they plaster the court-yard with cowdung. Thereupon they draw and fetch
262 water. They next give the gruel that is left from the previous day to the men and children. When these have eaten, they themselves take food. Thereupon they make up fire and put the midday meal food on the fire; they cook the rice, make curry; they pin leaf-cups and leaf-plates, ladle out the cooked rice, and when it becomes noon, they give the men and children their midday meal and afterwards eat themselves. From noon to the second
• [283] time for drawing water (about 5 p. m.) they do different kinds of work, pluck vegetables, fetch leaves, and if they live near a forest, they go to fetch firewood, or they clear out the cotton seed in the carkhi[6], they clean the cotton with a bow[7], they make rolls of carded cotton on twigs, they spin on the spinning wheel, they wind the thread on their fingers, that the men may afterwards use it when weaving cloth. When it becomes the second time for drawing water, they go to fetch water, and then make preparations for the evening meal. Some two hours after it has become dark they eat. The women eat after the others. Most they (i. e., all Santals) eat only now and then, mostly they eat
[263] cooked rice with vegetables and split peas. The spices for meat are turmeric, Anis seed, garlic, oil, and salt. The spices for fish are turmeric and mithi[8], and oil and salt; for vegetables and split peas only salt. They talk together about different matters while inside, thereupon they lie down to sleep. At the time of sowing and harvesting the women plant rice, hoe the maize, and when the paddy is ripe, they reap it. At the time of Dasãe they make the house and door smooth: so there, this is the work of the women.

f. Children's work and amusements.

857 Until they are able to tend cattle, small boys only run about and play. When they be-
233 come fit for being cattle-herds, they tend cattle, also sheep and goats, together with the
[234] other village boys. In the morning they let the cattle out, and they tend them, two or
[223] three companions going together. They blow the flute, they hunt birds. At noon they take the cattle to a place where they rest, that they may themselves get food. When they have eaten, they drive the cattle out to graze, and when it becomes evening, they bring
234 the cattle to the village and take them in. At noon grown-up people milk the cows; they give the milk to the children; what is left they keep and add to it day after day and make clarified butter of it. To make clarified butter they boil the milk; having boiled it they let it become curds; these they churn mixed with water; thereupon they skim off the

[6] See Dictionary s. v. [7] This bow is now fairly rare. It is made of bamboo; at one end, the end kept in the right hand, it is compact; the rest is split and bent and a caiget string is fixed so as to make it a bow. It is worked pecking the bow-string down in the cotton and "playing" this with the thumb and index-finger of the left hand. [8] Trigonella Fœnum-Græcum, L.

3: Mukherjea O. Y-4,5 (ca. 1933-1939) 1962
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Baskets of different shapes and sizes, made of bamboos arrest one's attention in a Santal household. One of them, called "uduli," is used by women while marketing and carrying things to the field. (See illustration). They have their own winnowing fan called "hata" and use a basket named "gauni" for measuring paddy. The broom-sticks are neatly made of "kancho" (*Oriya*) reeds (Santali, *K'harang*). (See illustration).

Uduli

Jana

Hata

Industries

As far as cottage-industries are concerned, we did not find spinning and weaving a part of the serious programme of the Santals, as they depend on the neighbouring Hindu weavers to supply their clothes. However, in most houses, they possess these wheels and the indigenous ginning machine, which implies,

3t Mukherjea O. Y-4, 5 (ca. 1933-1939) 1902
AW42 Santal AW42

283 if at all, that spinning is a lost art with them. When one examines such a "charkha," which is the Santal name as well, one finds that it is the

Santal spinning-wheel

universal machine in Indian cottages, except that in the middle of the plank on which the wheels rest, there is a stone placed, called "charkhabaha" in Mayurbhanj. (See illustration).

A second contrivance for spinning thread, called "dhera," was shown to us and it seemed to be the Santal edition of the *takli*. They have their "charkhi," 413 a ginning implement, common enough in all parts of India, and a bamboo-needle called "chuchi" used for stitching thatching-straw when building a cottage. (See illustration). 283 Santals make their ropes of "sabai" grass fibres, called "bachkom," (*Polliniaseriopoda*, Hance) after soaking them into water. Hemp is also used for the purpose.

Bamboo needle (chuchi)

41 Biswas D, E-3, 4 (1931-1945) 1956
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411 from the bow, i.e., the butt end of the arrow is held lightly between the fore and the middle fingers and the thumb is not used.

2. **Bolt Arrow** :—The bolt arrow, like an ordinary arrow, consists of two parts—the head and the shaft. The head is made of a small, solid piece of wood which is broader and flattened at the upper end and gradually becomes narrower towards the base. The cross-section of this part is roughly circular. At the base of the head a hole is made to receive the shaft which is a long, smooth and slender piece of reed. Two feathers are tied by means of cocoon strips on either side of the butt or free end of the shaft. A notch is made by cutting a little portion from one side of the posterior part of the butt end of the shaft. The other end of the shaft is inserted and fixed tightly into the hole of the head. After being released from the bow it will stupefy the birds in the air with its blow.

3. **Plain Bow** :—The Santal bow consists of a stave and a string. The stave is made of a long, curved bamboo split. The belly which is the surface facing the archer when drawing the bow is concave where as the back which is remote from the archer is convex. The middle portion of the stave is somewhat broad which serves as the "grip", but then it gradually becomes narrower towards the ends or horns. There are two stops cut from the solid ends of the stave to prevent the string from slipping. The string which is [283] fastened to the horns of the stave by means of a small loop is made of plaited bark fibre.

4. **Pellet Bow** :—The Pellet bow, like the plain bow, has a stave which is made of a long, curved bamboo split. The

4: Biswas D, E-3, 4 (1931-1945) 1956
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middle portion of the belly of the stave is more or less flat, and it is tied with the stave by means of cords. There are two strings running parallel to each other and they are tied at the notches of both ends of the stave. Strings are made of braided fibre. A small piece of bamboo is tied at right angles to the stave and it is in between the two strings near the tied end. This bamboo piece is to keep the pouch stretched. Near the middle of the bow strings there are a number of small cords tied parallel to each other forming a pouch like structure. This bow is adapted specially for pellets of stone or hard clay balls and not for arrows. 411

5. **Sling** :- The sling, among the Santals, is a common appliance for discharging stone pellets or hard clay particles. Bark fibres are made into a braided rope and of this rope the sling is made. A pouch is made by means of two knots at a little distance from one another, and from the knots two ends of the rope stick out. One end is slightly longer than the other. This longer end has a small loop at its foremost part for the insertion of the finger of the operator. A stone is placed in the pouch. Inserting the finger into the loop and at the same time holding the other end of the rope it is whirled round, and when it is in motion the end which has no loop is let loose in the direction at which the pellet is aimed. The pellet after being released from the sling goes violently towards the bird and stupefies it. [283]

6. **Battle Axe** :- The implement consists of an iron blade and a wooden handle. The handle is made of a long, solid, cylindrical piece of wood. It has a pointed end where the blade is to be fixed. The

4: Biswas D, E-3, 4 (1931-1945) 1956
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ends with turmeric. Formerly, all these clothes were made on their own loom, but now-a-days the Santals generally buy what they need from the market of the adjoining town.

Spinning and weaving:-The Santals wear cloth prepared on their own loom with their own thread besides purchasing from the market. They raise cotton for their own use. After the cotton is brought in, the first process is ginning. The ginning machine is very simple. It is an upright (drawing) frame work in which two wooden rollers are arranged to run in opposite directions by a sort of gear when the crank attached to one roller is turned. Cotton with seeds are put within the two rollers, and when the rollers are made to revolve, the cotton is separated from the seeds. Cotton is then spread and small bits of cotton are put over a bowstring which is then snapped. This does away with all the lumps and makes the cotton fluffy. It is then made into small rolls preparatory to spinning. Spinning is done by the spinning wheel. Spinning wheels are essentially spindles fitted horizontally into bearings and rotated by means of a cord passing round the threads attached to the two wheels and spindle. The wheels are revolved by hand alone. The spindle consists of a long iron needle, the working end is pointed, the other end is inserted into a fixed horizontal wood. Two wheels are fixed at a distance of about 6 inches to 8 inches apart in wood, a round stone is inserted in it between the two wheels. The two ends of the wood, with which wheels are attached, are placed on two uprights which again are fixed on a base of a "T" shaped wooden frame. The handle is fixed to the wood in which the wheels are fixed.